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Remarks

Claims 1-31 are currently pending and stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a). Claims 1-5, 9, 13-15, 17, 21, 24, 25, and 31 have been amended. Applicants assert that the claims are now in condition for allowance as set forth more fully below.

Information Disclosure Statement

Initially, Applicants point out that the previous office action of November 6, 2003, included a copy of the form 1449 showing references checked off by the Examiner. It appears that there was one reference listed in the “Other Documents” section that was inadvertently left unchecked. Applicants request that the Examiner please consider that remaining reference and provide the form 1449 with that reference checked off in response to this communication.

103 Rejections

Claims 1-6, 13-14, and 17-18 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Courter (US Pat 6,119,128) in view of Rosen (US Pat 6,097,382). Claims is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Courter in view of Rosen and further in view of Seestrom (US Pub 2002/0147731). Claim 8 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Courter in view of Rosen and further in view of Okura. Claims 9-12, 15-16, 19-26, and 30-31 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Courter in view of Rosen and further in view of Pisello (US Pat 5,495,607). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claims 1-12

The Office Action has rejected claim 1 by stating that Courter discloses all of the elements but does not teach the presence of a personnel directory. However, the Office Action states that Rosen does teach a personnel directory and states that there is motivation to combine Rosen with Courter to render claim 1 unpatentable.

Amended claim 1 recites that a request is received to edit an existing data entry of the personnel directory that includes a plurality of data entries stored in a current database location. Amended claim 1 further recites that in response to receiving the request to edit

the existing data entry, the existing data entry is copied from the current database location to create a previous data entry in a historical database location. The existing data entry of the personnel directory is edited in the current database location to produce an associated data entry, and the previous data entry stored in the historical database location is associated with the associated data entry. Courter does not disclose these elements.

Courter discloses two databases, one with current data and one with old data, and a log file that stores changes to the data of the current database. The log file is not a database, and Courter itself is careful to explain in column 1 that databases are collections of tables, each having rows (tuples) and columns. The rows and columns organize and store the data and represent relationships of data so that it can be searched and displayed. The log file which is also defined in column 1 of Courter is, on the other hand, is a data file that records changes made to the current database relative to the old database, such as the pairing of a new name that replaced an old name in the current database with the old name remaining in the old database. Thus, the log file associates data of the new database to data of the old database, but the log file itself is not a database of tables having rows and columns that organize and store data, but is instead merely a data file. For example, the log file may contain a pairing of a new name to an old name, but it is the database that contains the full record of information that goes with the name, such as address, salary, etc. that is organized by row and column. The complete record of an employee cannot be determined from a log file of Courter, but only from complete records within one of the two databases.

As recited above, claim 1 recites that a data entry is copied from one database to another upon receiving a request to edit the data entry. Courter does not show this. Courter is interested in recovery of an entire database, and as a result, shows an entire database, i.e., all entries, being copied to another database to create a back-up as an initial step of preparing for the data recovery process. Copying the entire contents of the database to another database and doing such copying other than in response to a request for editing, as is disclosed in Courter, is fundamentally different than 1.) receiving a request to edit a data entry of one database location and 2.) copying that data entry to another database location upon receiving the request, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over Courter in combination with Rosen for at least this reason.

Furthermore, as described above, because a log file is not a database, placing data from one database into a log file, as is done in Courter to establish the association, is not copying a data entry from one database location to another database location as recited in claim 1. This difference is significant as it leaves shortcomings in the system of Courter as the log file is merely a data file with new and old pairings, as opposed to a database which is known within the art as having rows and columns that store and organize data entries. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over Courter in combination with Rosen for at least this additional reason as well.

Claims 2-12 depend from an allowable claim 1 and are also allowable for at least the same reasons. Furthermore, one or more of claims 2-12 recite additional features patentable over the cited references. For example, claim 9 recites receiving a search query looking for the previous data entry, searching the current database for the previous data entry, searching the historical database for the previous data entry, identifying the associated data entry as corresponding to the previous data entry, and reporting the previous data entry and the associated data entry. As noted by the Office Action, Courter fails to teach these steps, but the Office Action states that Pisello teaches them. However, Pisello also fails to teach these steps as is discussed in more detail below with reference to claim 19.

Claims 13-18

The Office Action states that Courter also teaches all of the elements of claim 13 except for the personnel directory, which is taught by Rosen.

Amended claim 13 recites that a personnel directory application is adapted to receive a request to edit a data entry of a current database location, to copy a data entry of a current database location into a historical database location in response to receiving the request, to edit the data entry of the current database location into an edited data entry, and to associate the edited data entry of the current database location with the copied data entry of the historical database location to establish associations between up-to-date data entries of the current database location and outdated data entries of the historical database location.

Courter does not disclose an application that copies a data entry of a current database location to a historical database location in response to receiving a request to edit the data entry. Again, similar to that noted above for claim 1, copying the entire database as an initial step to a data recovery process is different than these recitations of claim 13 that provide for copying a data entry from one database location to another in response to receiving a request to edit the data entry. Furthermore, copying data from a database to a log file, as opposed to another database, is also different than these recitations. Accordingly, claim 13 is allowable over Courter in view of Rosen for at least these reasons.

Claims 15-18 depend from an allowable claim 13 and are also allowable for at least the same reasons. Additionally, one or more of claims 15-18 provide additional patentable features not disclosed by the cited references.

Claims 19 and 20

The Office Action states that Courter teaches the elements except does not teach a graphical user interface that receives a query for a desired outdated data and does not teach presenting the desired outdated data entry from the historical database and its associated current data entry from the current database. The Office Action further states that Pisello teaches these elements.

Claim 19 recites that a graphical user interface accepts a search query for a desired outdated data entry, and the personnel directory establishes associations between the current data entries in the current database and the outdated data entries in the historical database. The graphical user interface, in response to the search query, presents the desired outdated data entry from the historical database and its associated current data entry from the current database.

Pisello fails to teach these elements. The Office Action cites to Table 2 of Pisello to show the presentation by the graphical user interface of the desired outdated data entry from the historical database and its associated current data entry from the current database. Specifically, the Office Action cites to specific lines in Table 2 as showing the outdated data entry and the current data entry. The Office Action states that the line having the file last revision date 931004 09:15 is a current database entry, that the server

file source File source: Acct 111.0\.. is a current database, that the line having the file last revision date 931003 11:59 is an outdated database entry, and that the server file source File source:AcctBak.O\.. is the historical database. The common filename dave.doc is said to the association between the two data entries.

Applicants respectfully disagree with this characterization of Pisello. Table 2 shows a listing of information about many files that have various revisions located on various servers of a network domain. A directory location (File source:...) of a network of servers is not a database. As discussed above, a database is a specific data structure that has tables of rows and columns that organize and store data. Table 2 itself is a representation of a single table of a database, but the individual items represented within Table 2 are not databases. The "File source:..." is simply a file storage location on a storage drive of one server of a network. Therefore, the two File source locations of Table 2 cannot be construed to be a current database and a historical database. Additionally, a data entry of a database is a piece of data, such as a name of a person, or a name of a file as in Table 2. The line entries of Table 2 correspond to data files which are themselves not data entries of a database, as only their file names are database entries. Data files such as those named within Table 2 are data constructs that exist independently from any database structure or program. The data entry of claim 19 is a data entry of a database and has no structure apart from its being contained within a location of a database. Because Pisello, and specifically Table 2, does not disclose a current database, a historical database, and current and outdated data entries of databases, claim 19 is allowable over the cited combination of Courter with Rosen and Pisello.

Furthermore, to the extent the filenames stored in the Table 2 can be construed as data entries of a database, they cannot themselves be the association to another data entry. The Office Action has stated that dave.doc is the association, but dave.doc is instead an entry. Since filenames dave.doc noted by the Office Action are the same entry within the same database even though appearing in separate lines, they cannot be the association between two differing data entries. Note that claim 19 recites that one data entry is current and another is outdated, so that the data entries must differ. The data entries that are filenames dave.doc of both lines cited to by the Office Action are not outdated and current entries. This is true because even though the corresponding files do differ in

revision date, the data entry of the Table 2 is the filename, not the file. Accordingly, claim 19 is allowable over the cited combination for this additional reason.

Claim 20 depends from an allowable claim 19 and is also allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 21-24

The Office Action states that Courter teaches the elements except receiving a search query for a copied data entry and reporting the copied data entry and the associated new data entry. However, the Office Action further states that Pisello teaches these elements.

Amended claim 21 recites associating the new data entry in the current database location with the copied data entry in the historical database location. Amended claim 21 further recites receiving a search query for the copied data entry at the historical database location and reporting the copied data entry from the historical database location and the associated new data entry from the current database location.

The Office Action again cites to Table 2 regarding copied data entry and new data entry. Claim 21 is directed to data entries of databases whereas Table 2 refers to data files stored on various servers of a network domain. Thus, Pisello does not disclose receiving a query for searching for a data entry at a database location. To the extent Table 2 is a representation of a database, the data entries are the filenames as opposed to the files themselves. Again, the filenames have not been copied, then edited within the database as recited in claim 21, as dave.doc is the same in both lines. Therefore, claim 21 is allowable over the combination of Courter with Rosen and Pisello for at least these reasons.

Claims 22-24 depend from an allowable claim 21 and are also allowable for at least the same reasons. Additionally, one or more of claims 22-24 provide additional patentable features not disclosed by the cited references.

Claims 25-31

The Office Action states that Courter teaches all of the elements except for receiving a search query for the copied data entry and reporting the copied data entry and

the associated replacement data entry. However, the Office Action states that Pisello teaches these elements.

Claim 25 recites associating the copied data entry at the historical database location with the replacement data entry at the current database location and receiving a search query for the copied data entry at the historical database location. Claim 25 further recites reporting the copied data entry from the historical database location and the associated replacement data entry from the current database location.

Again, the Office Action again cites to Table 2 regarding copied data entry and new data entry. Claim 25 is directed to data entries of databases whereas Table 2 refers to data files stored on various servers of a network domain. To the extend Table 2 may be construed as a representation of a database, the data entries are the filenames, as opposed to the files themselves. Claim 25 is directed to deleting a filename and entering a replacement file name that is associated to the previously copied filename. The filename dave.doc of one entry cannot be viewed as a replacement for the filenamen dave.doc, since these are the same filenames. Thus, Pisello does not disclose receiving a query for searching for a data entry at a database location. Therefore, claim 25 is allowable over the combination of Courter with Rosen and Pisello for at least these reasons.

Claims 26-31 depend from an allowable claim 25 and are also allowable for at least the same reasons. Additionally, one or more of claims 26-31 provide additional patentable features not disclosed by the cited references.

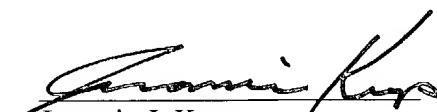
Conclusion

Applicants assert that the application including claims 1-31 is now in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the amendments and remarks above and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees beyond the noted fee for continued examination are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,

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